

PUBLIC MEETING FOR TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD DEVELOPMENT ON THE GUEST RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

The final public meeting on the development of a fecal coliform bacteria TMDL for the Sepulcher Creek, Toms Creek/Little Toms Creek and Crab Orchard Branch watersheds in the Guest River drainage will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.** at Tacoma Community Center. Tacoma Community Center is located in Wise County in the community of Tacoma on Stone Mountain Road approximately 0.2 miles south off of Alt. Route 58 between Coeburn and Norton, Virginia. This meeting will serve two purposes. First, the draft bacteria TMDL will be presented and public comments solicited. Secondly, implementation planning for the approved Guest River benthic TMDL and potential implementation for the draft bacteria TMDLs for Sepulcher Creek, Toms Creek/Little Toms Creek and Crab Orchard Branch will begin.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria on Crab Orchard Creek, Toms Creek, Little Toms Creek, and Sepulcher Creek in the Guest River watershed. The fecal coliform impairments include - 2.43 miles on Crab Orchard Creek through the community of Crab Orchard, 2.6 miles on Sepulcher Creek in Glamorgan and Stephens along Route 625, 11.6 miles of Toms Creek located near Coeburn and 4.7 miles on Little Toms Creek above Coeburn. Guest River and tributaries were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria.

303(d) of the Clean Water Act and 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The purpose of a study is to identify sources and determine reductions of fecal coliform bacteria so that these Guest River tributaries can meet the water quality standards.

The public comment period will end on February 26, 2004. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and be addressed to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, 355 Deadmore Street, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212, telephone (276) 676-4807, Fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.state.va.us. ❖